



Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot *Shreveport, LA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA Region 6 selected the City of Shreveport for a Regional Brownfields Pilot. Shreveport (population 198,525) is the State's third largest city and is located at the crossroads of major rail and highway systems that transport large volumes of hazardous materials. During the regional decline of the oil industry in the 1980s, the city lost 10,000 jobs, many of them in industries located in the older inner-city industrial area. Shreveport's inner city contains hundreds of acres of industrial sites that lie abandoned due to the presence or threat of contamination. The urban core has been designated a Federal Empowerment Zone (EZ) with an unemployment rate of 20 percent and a poverty rate of 40 percent within the EZ. The area also has been chosen for the Federal National Performance Review program, to demonstrate a comprehensive strategy for enhancing delivery of Federal support to troubled neighborhoods. City-wide, unemployment is 10.6 percent, 24 percent of families are living in poverty, and 47 percent of the population is comprised of minorities. Although the City has not yet conducted site assessments, brownfields contamination is suspected at most of the abandoned sites. Fear of environmental liability is impeding redevelopment, increasing urban blight, and causing businesses to locate in prime agricultural areas outside the City.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Shreveport, Louisiana

Date of Award:
July 1996

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets the abandoned industrial sites within the City's Federal Empowerment Zone.

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the City's brownfields program is to increase the economic and environmental viability of Shreveport's urban core neighborhoods. This will be accomplished by: 1) formalizing partnerships between the City and other organizations concerned with economic and environmental revitalization; 2) implementing redevelopment projects in specific target neighborhoods; 3) marketing redevelopment opportunities; 4) leveraging resources to attract Federal, State, and private funds; and 5) coordinating business, educational, neighborhood, and other activities to achieve the overall objective.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot is:

- Developing an inventory of City brownfields and criteria for ranking sites in terms of their redevelopment potential;
- Conducting Phase I site assessments;
- Exploring legal, financial, and technological options for brownfields cleanup, planning and redevelopment;
- Educating the community about brownfields problems and opportunities; and
- Providing a forum to develop community-based strategies for long-term brownfields redevelopment.